

## FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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September 18, 1958

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SUBJECT: East German Police Action Steinstucken Exclave (American Sector, Berlin)  
August 7, 1958

The following report concerning East German Police action in the Steinstucken exclave of the American Sector of Berlin on August 7, 1958, was supplied to this office by G-2, USAREUR:

"1. A defector from the 15th Company East German Border Security Police stationed at DREWITZ, which adjoins STEINSTUECKEN to the south, gave the following version of subject action.

"2. The incident began when the border guard on duty at the intersection of Stein Str. and Bernhard-Beyer Str. (see attached sketch) checked the ID card of one GRATSCH, 30-35 years old. The latter escaped into the exclave. The guard had followed the fugitive 70 meters into the exclave to a telephone booth in Bernhard-Beyer Str. but then lost track. The guard then notified Sr. Lt. HAUBOLD, Polit-officer who alerted the company. Fifty to fifty-five men under the command of Lt. GUTT, company commander had surrounded the exclave by 0530; an additional 30 men arrived at 0730.

"3. At 0700 on orders of Lt. GUTT a member of the Border Guard Company carrying an SMG entered the exclave and climbed a tree near the telephone booth. He detected the fugitive hiding under a bush in the garden of a civilian residence near the railroad tracks. He reported the fact to the officer.

"4. Source believes that Lt. GUTT a member of the Border Guard Company and Sr. Lt. HAUBOLD, who had arrived on the scene worked out the following plan without consulting higher authority. At about 0900 a non-com dog handler in full uniform with dog and armed with a pistol, three Pfc's one armed with an SMG and two with pistols invaded the exclave over Bernhard-Beyer Str. and penetrated the garden where the fugitive was seen hiding. The dog found him, whereupon the four policemen dragged him out of the exclave along the railroad tracks. The fugitive was taken to the company's station in DREWITZ and turned over to the Kreis police office in Potsdam.

"5. At 1000 the same day, the company commander of the unit reprimanded the lieutenant and the four enlisted men for invading STEINSTUECKEN, but at 1600 the regimental commander, Lt. Col. KRAUSE, who

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had come from BLANKENFELDE called the five men together to commend them. Each of the four enlisted men received two weeks extra leave at a Baltic resort and was given DM (East) 250. The lieutenant was promoted to senior lieutenant. The EM were told that GRATSCH was a violator of currency regulations.

"6. Source stated that five to ten defectors are caught every week by the 15th Company.

"COMMENT: This report adds considerably to the information given by resident eye-witnesses in that it clears up the number of men who actually invaded the exclave. Also, it is the only information on the identity of the fugitive, and on the crime for which he was sought. According to East German law, anyone who brings East currency into West Berlin, or buys East currency there is liable to prosecution.

"Another report, as yet unevaluated, relates that an SED Central Committee member sharply criticized the invasion of STEINSTUECKEN as unnecessarily giving West Berlin newspapers a chance to agitate against the East German regime. He stated that future actions would be taken only with central committee approval. This could well be true, as recent reports indicate that the East German regime has become sensitive to Western charges of inhumanity."

A later interrogation of the defector determined that he did not have independent knowledge of the fugitive's name (GRATSCH), but had picked this up from the newspapers appearing in the East Zone at the time.

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